



# Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office  
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**Daniel A. Dunlap**  
Sheriff

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## **PRESS RELEASE** **January 31, 2012**

During the year 2011, for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the number of Felony inmates housed in the Lake County Jail has exceeded the number of Misdemeanor inmates.

Nearly 2/3 of the 360+ inmates housed in jail today are Felons. This is a total reversal of the type of jail population we managed in 1993. At that time, of the 336 inmates housed in jail, over two-thirds, or 220 inmates, were incarcerated on Misdemeanor charges.

Fortunately the Judges and Prosecutors in Lake County have been very proactive in finding alternative sanctions (ie house arrest, probation, intensive supervision, community service, etc) for Misdemeanor offenders, which has reduced the cost to tax payers for housing such offenders in jail. But more importantly it has also provided such offenders with a greater opportunity to turn around their lives, avoid future criminal offenses, and become better contributing members of our communities.

Unfortunately, persons housed on felony charges have increased, and thus we are dealing with more serious offenders behind bars here at the local level. It appears that this will continue for some time, now that House Bill 86 became effective in September of 2011. This Bill addresses Felony Sentencing in Ohio and is aimed at reducing the State's prison population by returning some 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> degree Felony inmates back to the local level for longer stays at the County jails.

*Frank Leonbruno*

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